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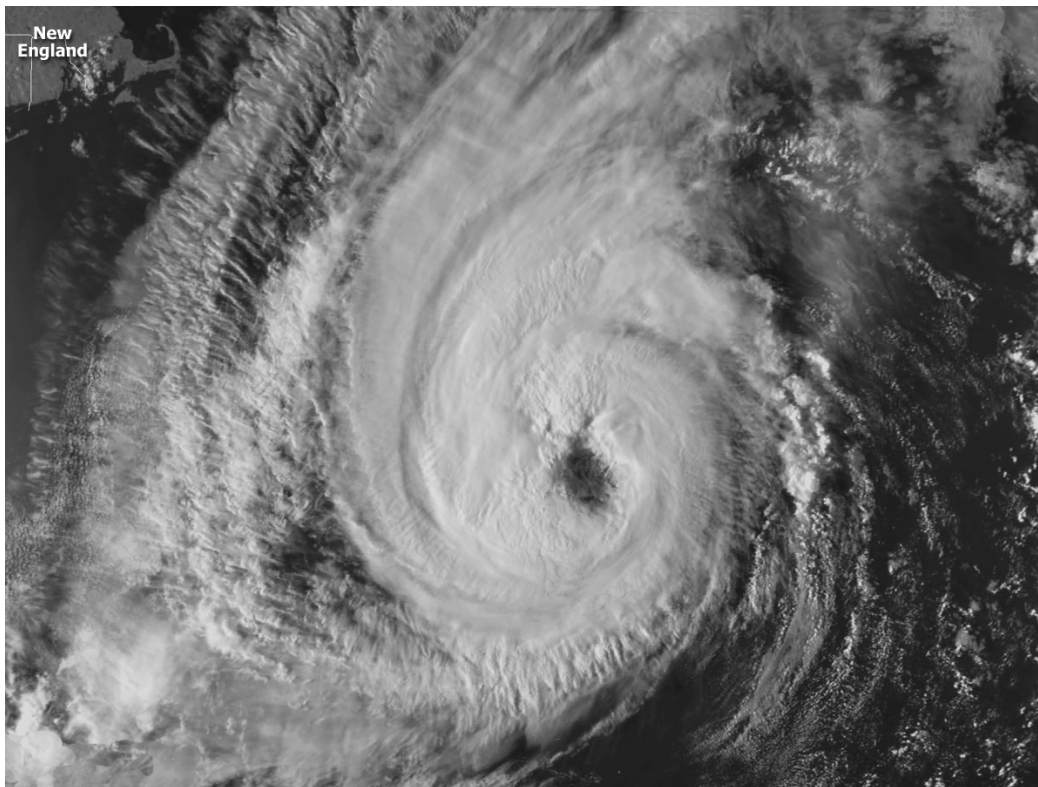
OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

National Hurricane Operations Plan

FCM-P12-2002



Washington, DC
May 2002

Hurricane Erin - 11 September 2001

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NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

Change Number	Page Numbers	Date Posted	Initial
1			
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Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change or by shading and strikeouts.

Review Date	Comments	Initial

FOREWORD

The Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference (IHC) is sponsored annually by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) to provide a forum for the responsible Federal agencies, together with representatives from the user communities like emergency management, to review the Nation's hurricane forecast and warning program and to make recommendations on how to improve the program in the future. The major objective is to plan and prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. The 56th IHC was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 11-15, 2002, and the new procedures, procedural changes, and agreements reached at the conference were incorporated into this publication--the 40th edition of the *National Hurricane Operations Plan* (NHOP).

This edition includes a number of revisions and changes. Thirteen action items were addressed during an open meeting of the Working Group for Hurricane and Winter Storms Operations and Research (WG/HWSOR). Eight of the 13 items were closed through incorporation into the NHOP as approved recommendations and/or changes. Of the remaining five, three action items were for information only, one was rejected, and one was non-NHOP related and is being staffed by the WG/HWSOR. The action items will be published in the *Minutes of the 56th Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference*.

Chapter 3, *General Operations and Procedures of the National Weather Service Hurricane Centers*, contains new policy that directs the National Centers for Environmental Prediction's Hydrological Prediction Center to issue public advisories, vice storm summaries, after subtropical and tropical cyclones have moved inland to cover the threat due to heavy rain and flash flooding. Chapter 3 also includes revised policy on the designation (numbering and naming) of tropical and subtropical cyclones, and a new section on the Hurricane Liaison Team. Chapter 5, *Aircraft Reconnaissance*, and Chapter 6, *Satellite Reconnaissance*, were substantially updated, and Appendix A on local National Weather Service (NWS) Products was updated with a new table, indicating how tropical cyclone watch/warning-related products are issued to local users. Appendix G documents a significant revision to the TEMP DROP code.

Similar to the 2000 season, the 2001 season was both active and unusual from the standpoint that the United States experienced no landfalling hurricanes. Tropical Cyclone Allison, however, was a major flooding catastrophe, causing 41 deaths and \$5 billion in damage--the deadliest and costliest U.S. tropical storm on record. Our multiagency tropical cyclone warning support system was put to the test and again superbly responded--a tribute to the professionalism, dedication, and cooperation of the civilian and military agencies involved.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological
Services and Supporting Research

NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN

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